

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

It becomes my duty to present you with my Annual Report according to the instructions given by the Local Government, consisting of the various matters brought under your notice, as well as a resume of the work accomplished by you, together with the returns of mortality and sickness.

I am pleased to inform you that the Zymotic Diseases have been few, and only one death, that being Scarlatina in a very young child. There had been ten cases of that disease altogether, one occurring in the Union. The first was imported in January, and it did not appear again until September, when three families were infected, and owing to prompt measures taken by your Surveyor the disease did not further spread. The only other notifiable disease that occurred was Typhoid Fever, and there were only two cases, one being imported from an adjoining district, the other was attributed to the unsanitary condition of the house and surroundings; both cases recovered. The only non-notifiable disease that existed was Measles, which was very prevalent during the early months of the year. The cases, though numerous, were mild, and no fatality occurred. The Infant Board School had to be closed.

During the year your attention has been called to several sanitary matters. The most noticeable of these were converting of Privies at Eastbourne Road, Bridge Lane, Paul's Square, and Trenance, into Water Closets; the extension of Drainage at Ledrah Road, Moorland Road, and Truro Road. The Closet in the New Inn Yard has been done away with, and two of overcrowding have been reported, one at Grant's Walk, the other at West Bridge; both nuisances have been abated. A house at West Hill has also been reported to be in a filthy condition, but it has been cleaned, lime-washed, and disinfected. In some parts of the district the roads have been widened and the footpaths improved. Railway Station Yard has been reported on, the drainage of which and Palace Road is now under consideration. The Closets at the Station have been ventilated.

The erection of Public Urinals has also had your attention, and I hope during the present year that will be carried out.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been visited and reported upon. There appears to be a difficulty in complying with the regulations. Your authority will no doubt see the advisability of adhering to the regulations as near as possible.

The Privies at Moorland Road and Eastbourne Road are in an unsanitary state, and they have been reported upon, but the properties are very old and leasehold. The houses in Moorland Road are in a very delapidated condition, but I fear I cannot say they are unfit for habitation; this is a matter for your consideration.

The New Bye-laws have not as yet come into force, but I hope before long they will, so that Piggeries will not be allowed so near dwelling-houses; and that new houses will have sufficient air space in front and back. Until this is done you cannot expect the town to be improved.

In my last year's report I referred to the enlargement of the district, but no steps I believe, have as yet, been taken. If the district is not extended, it would be advisable to have a district boundary, so as to prevent going through the centre of fields and gardens, and in one instance through a house. A circular road around the district, if practicable, would be a great boon.

Several houses have been erected, but none suitable for Workmen's Cottages. This is another reason why the District should be enlarged, as in the present area there is no land available.

Only one Lodging-house in the District is registered, and this is not in a satisfactory condition. There are other houses which take in lodgers, and do not come under the Act as keepers of common lodging-houses; they, I believe, obtain a coffee licence.

There is one Slaughter-house in the District that is in a crowded thoroughfare, and as long as it is kept clean we cannot interfere.

Herewith are the Birth and Death Rates for the past eighteen years, during which time I have been the officer of the Board.

1880	Birth Rate	33·1	Death Rate	22·
1881	„	26·5	„	18·1
1882	„	27·3	„	25·9
1883	„	26·2	„	24·8
1884	„	30·9	„	18·7
1885	„	27·07	„	27·3
1886	„	24·2	„	23·4
1887	„	25·1	„	25·9
1888	„	22·8	„	18·4
1889	„	23·4	„	15·6
1890	„	19·2	„	23·7
1891	„	25·3	„	22·1
1892	„	23·8	„	20·1
1893	„	26·7	„	23·8
1894	„	28·6	„	20·1
1895	„	25·02	„	18·9
1896	„	23·8	„	16·6
1897	„	22·1	„	16·6

You will see that both the Birth and Death Rates are low, the latter being the same as the previous year, and the lowest with one exception (the year 1889) for the past eighteen years. Omitting the Workhouse, the death rate would be 11·3.

The Zymotic death rate has been referred to in the commencement of this report, there being only one fatality, giving a rate ·23 per 1,000 of the inhabitants. This is satisfactory. The deaths in children under one year were eight, at the rate of 2·3 per 1,000, whilst there were twenty-six deaths in persons over sixty-five years of age.

I hope in the future, as in the past, to call your attention to further sanitary arrangements in your District, and hope that you will first consider the advisability of covering the Filter Beds (or small reservoirs), now that you have a pure and wholesome supply of drinking water, as you are aware the water has been recently analyzed and found to be exceptionally good.

I have the honour to remain,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

Medical Officer of Health.

E. Carlyon, Esq.,
St. Austell.

ST. AUSTELL,

JANUARY, 1898.

TO THE MEMBERS

OF THE

Rural District Council of St. Austell.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As Medical Officer of Health for your District, at the expiration of each year I am directed by the Local Government Board to prepare an Annual Report, comprising a detailed account of the work done, and also showing what we contemplate doing in the future. I also give the returns of mortality and sickness during the past year.

Although the **Notified Cases** have been considerably less, the death rate has not diminished.

In the cases which are not notifiable—chiefly Measles and Whooping Cough—the mortality has been considerably more.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—During the first three months of the year, Whooping Cough was very prevalent, and it caused no less than 9 deaths—all in children under five years of age.

MEASLES.—Measles have existed in some parts of the District during the whole year, and in places were so prevalent that the Board Schools were closed. The young children were the chief sufferers, 10 having died. The Infant Schools in some places were also closed, but this was not found to answer satisfactorily, as the children attending the other schools came into contact with the infected ones in their homes.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER prevailed at the commencement of the year at St. Dennis and St. Stephens, and during the latter months, in St. Blazey District; there were altogether eighteen cases, with one death.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were ten cases altogether, with one death. Two cases at Newtown, near Fowey, and the remainder were in different districts, and appeared to have had no connection with each other. In each instance the sanitary surroundings were not satisfactory, and have been reported upon, and received immediate attention.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—There were two cases in Fowey District, both of which proved fatal.

TYPHOID FEVER.—There were seven cases, with one death: in two instances it was imported. The unimported cases were attributed to untrapped drains and unsanitary surroundings, all of which have been remedied.

ERYSIPELAS.—Only twelve cases occurred, with two deaths—all in young children. The cases occurred in St. Austell and Fowey Districts.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—There was only one fatal case of Puerperal Fever, viz. at Par Lane, in Fowey District. There the surroundings were most unsatisfactory, and the usual notices were at once served.

There were only fifty cases notified during 1897, whilst for 1896 there were one hundred and fifty. The mortality for notifiable diseases for last year was $\cdot 27$; for 1896 it was $\cdot 28$; and taking the whole of the Zymotic diseases the mortality for 1897 was $1\cdot 2$, whilst for 1896 it was $\cdot 73$, the increase being due, as previously remarked, viz., to Measles and Whooping Cough.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

The work done during the year has been very considerable, and important steps have been taken with regard to Drinking Water and Drainage.

WATER.

In dealing with Sanitary matters, the first and most important consideration is the question of Drinking Water. It should not only be protected from all kinds of contamination at its source, and during its course, but light should be excluded from it; and it ought not to be exposed until it is drawn for drinking purposes. As to Filtering Beds, I have but very little faith in them, as the rate at which the water passes through them should be very slow, and the swimmer in the filters frequently changed.

St. Ewe Village has been supplied with a Storage Reservoir, about eleven hundred gallons in capacity. The water is brought to the village by means of iron pipes, and a new pump fixed. At Sticker, a new Reservoir has been constructed, and the water conveyed by pipes to the

centre of the village. At Roche, the Well has been cleaned, and a new deep well pump erected thereon, and at St. Dennis, a similar one has been fixed and the well cleaned. In my last report I referred to the difficulty at Trelyon, in St. Stephens Parish, in getting the Landlords to procure a supply of water for their tenants. I am now pleased to inform you that this has been accomplished. The farms are being supplied by gravitation, and a deep well pump has been provided for the village. Fowey Water has also had a great deal of your attention, because of its insufficiency during the summer months. Some steps have been taken to prevent contamination, and the matter is still under consideration. The practice that has existed in many places of having the water closets supplied direct from the main is being discontinued. Each closet should be supplied with a two gallon flushing cistern.


DRAINAGE.—The next important matter is Drainage. Drainage has been extended in several places; in some instances old pipes have been replaced by new ones. Lower Porthpean was referred to in my last report, and since then the drainage has been accomplished by having been carried out to low water mark, and this fashionable little watering place is vastly improved. There are still a few cottages which should be connected with this drain.

I had to call your attention to soapy water and other slops emptying on the highway. Where there are paved water tables it flows away and does not become a nuisance; but on the other hand, where there are no paved tables it lodges in pools about the village. This is forcibly illustrated at Nanpean.

Lamb Park, Par, still requires your attention, as some of the houses remain unconnected with the drain. This place lies very low, and requires constant supervision.

A great number of closets have been erected throughout the District.

Tywardreath has also had our attention, and about two thousand feet of 9 and 12-inch drain pipes have been laid down, and settling pits are being arranged for. The existing drains in the village have been trapped, and ventilators fixed. At North Street, Fowey, the drain has been extended, and the drains of five houses have been connected with it. A 9-inch sewer has been laid at Polkirt, Mevagissey.



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SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

The drains here have been extended several hundred feet, and several houses connected thereto.

OVERCROWDING.

Several cases of overcrowding have been reported, and on receiving notice the nuisances were abated.

Several houses were condemned as unfit for habitation, and most of them have been renovated. A few have been pulled down, as they were built back to back, and were not allowed to be re-built

Gorran and Roche Churchyards were under consideration in my last report. Gorran Churchyard has been enlarged, and Roche is following suit. Charlestown was also reported upon. A field has been inspected and approved of, but the negotiations are not as yet completed. There are others which I contemplate bringing under your notice during the coming year

DRINKING WATER AT BUGLE.—Your Council has had under consideration the Drinking Water at Bugle—it being deficient during the summer months. Several schemes were proposed, but they were finally abandoned, owing to the Landowners not being prepared to grant reasonable terms.

The Water Supply at Carthew School has also been under consideration. This is now being carried out, and I hope will be completed before the summer.

At Little Polgooth, in St. Ewe, and Polgooth, in St. Mewan, the drinking water was reported: this is also having attention.

At Enniscaven a pump that had been erected has since been removed, and the well opened, and the people dip again into the said well. Steps should be taken to prevent this.

Some of the Dairies and Cowsheds have had my attention: many of them were found not to be in accordance with the regulations, and the usual notices were given.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Some have been complained of as unsatisfactory, there being no water to flush them, and they are frequently situated close to the highway.

The Piggeries in the Allotment Gardens at North Hill were complained of, and in this case you can only make the owners

keep them clean. A Pig Farm has also been under your notice, and a bye-law should be adopted to prevent these sheds from being erected in close proximity to dwelling houses. I am pleased to find that your Council are going to adopt Bye-laws, and I hope the above will be included, Your Council will remember the trouble given by the occupation of houses at Ruddle and Bojea. The said houses ought not to have been occupied, but there being no bye-laws, you were unable to take further action. Over one hundred new houses in the District have been erected, but still there is a demand for more. Some of the houses were too small, not sufficient sleeping accommodation being provided. Here also the bye-laws will be of great benefit.

Your Inspector has issued about two hundred notices to abate nuisances, and a good deal of his time has been taken up in drawing plans and supervising work ordered to be carried out.

There is a great deal of work in hand at present, and more under contemplation, which will have to be carried out during the present year. I refer chiefly to the completion of Tywardreath Drainage, Mevagissey Drainage and Latrines. Fowey Water should also be further improved. And I purpose bringing before you for consideration the question of the Drainage of Tregonissey and Tregonissey Lane, in due course.

Appended you will find the returns of Mortality for the past eighteen years ; also the Birth Rate and the number of Notifiable Cases.

1880.	Birth Rate	33·9	Death Rate	21·7
1881.	„	32·9	„	18·7
1882.	„	31·8	„	15·9
1883.	„	31·8	„	18·2
1884.	„	33·9	„	19·6
1885.	„	32·6	„	18·6
1886.	„	33·8	„	19·6
1887.	„	29·7	„	19·5
1888.	„	31·9	„	17·2
1889.	„	36·6	„	17·6
1890.	„	31·6	„	18·8
1891.	„	32·7	„	19·4

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1892.	Birth Rate	30·5	Death Rate	15·5
1893.	„	29·8	„	21·4
1894.	„	28·7	„	16·7
1895.	„	31·4	„	18·9
1896.	„	31·8	„	14·9
1897.	„	31·3	„	16·7

The Death Rate is more than in the previous year, but is still below the average, the increase being chiefly in aged people.

You will see that the Death Rate is below the average, whilst the Birth Rate has been the same for the last three years.

I now give you the Birth and Death Rate of the several districts for 1897 :—

St. Austell	Death Rate	17·9	Birth Rate	29·8
Fowey	„	18·1	„	31·9
Grampound	„	17·1	„	36·6
Mevagissey	„	11·009	„	27·6

Mevagissey shows the lowest Death Rate, and Fowey the highest. The lowest Birth Rate is at Mevagissey, and the highest is at Grampound ; whilst compared with the previous year, the Death Rate is higher in St. Austell, Fowey and Grampound. The only decrease being at Mevagissey.

The Birth Rate was greater in St. Austell and Fowey, and less in Grampound and Mevagissey for 1896, as the following table shews :—

St. Austell	Death Rate	15·8	Birth Rate	32·3
Fowey	„	14·9	„	32·9
Grampound	„	14·5	„	34·6
Mevagissey	„	13·3	„	24·8

The increase here is due to the mortality among aged people and young children ; the increase in the deaths of the latter being due to Measles and Whooping Cough, which caused nineteen deaths. As you are aware these two diseases are not notifiable, which probably accounts for the rapid spread of the disease, and also for the increased Death Rate. The Death Rate for children under one year was 4·5 per thousand inhabitants.

From the foregoing you will see the vast amount of work which has been done during the year, and also the constant supervision which it requires. It appears to me that in such a District as yours

there is no end to the work: in each District something new is always coming under one's notice; and although several dark spots have been removed, fresh ones are always being discovered; but I may say that very few Rural Districts in Cornwall can show a better record of more useful work than that accomplished by your Council during the past year.

I hope that your Council will continue in the future, as it has done in the past, to give Sanitary matters your earnest attention. Sanitary science is rapidly coming to the front, and will, before long, become one of the great questions of the hour; and I feel certain that you will not be found wanting when the occasion arises.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

John Stephens, Esq.,

Clerk to the Rural District Council, St. Austell.

